

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A shelf unit comprising:
a shelf having a box-like shape with an open front face; and
a plurality of modules each having guide rails, each of said guide rails being engageable with a guide rail of a neighboring module,
wherein each said module is inserted into said shelf through said open front face such that said guide rail ~~slide along~~ of said inserted module is guided by the guide rail of the neighboring module, and
such that said plurality of modules are is connected to the neighboring modules with said guide rail being engaged with the guide rails of the neighboring ~~guide rail~~ modules.
2. (original) The shelf unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said guide rails include lower guide rails provided on lower surfaces of said modules and upper guide rails provided on upper surfaces of said modules, said modules being connected by said lower guide rails engaging each other and said upper guide rails engaging each other.
3. (original) The shelf unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein said lower guide rail has a guide rail part having a U-shape on one end thereof and a guide rail part having an inverse U-shape on the other end thereof and said upper guide rail has a guide rail part having an inverse U-shape at an end opposing said U-shaped guide rail part of said lower guide rail and a guide rail part having a U-shape at an end opposing said inverse U-shaped guide rail part of said lower guide rail.
4. (original) The shelf unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shelf is provided with a supporting plate for supporting the weight of modules connected with each other in a transverse direction in said shelf with said guide rails being connected to each other.
5. (currently amended) The shelf unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a transverse rail horizontally bridged in said shelf; and

10/055,576
11169507.01

fixing members to be fixed to said module, said fixing members being movably supported by said transverse rail so as to be movable along said transverse rail;

wherein said fixing members are moved along said transverse rail to a position corresponding to said module and fixed to said module at said position.

6. (currently amended) The shelf unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein said fixing members are provided with retaining screws and when said retaining screws are fastened, said retaining screws are screwed into said module and said fixing members are fixed on said transverse rail.

7. (original) The shelf unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shelf is provided with a base part guide rail at a position on the side plate side whereto said guide rail of the module to be firstly inserted into said shelf engage.

8. (currently amended) The shelf unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said modules accommodates a dispersion compensating fiber wound on a reel.

9. (currently amended) A wavelength division multiplexing transmission system provided with a shelf unit comprising:
a shelf having a box-like shape with an open front face; and
a plurality of modules each having guide rails which can engage with guide rails of neighboring modules and slide along are guided by said guide rails of neighboring modules,
wherein each said module is inserted into said shelf through said open front face such that said guide rail slide along is guided by the guide rail of the neighboring module, and
such that said plurality of modules are is connected to the neighboring modules with said guide rail being engaged with the guide rails of the neighboring guide rail modules, and
each of said modules accommodates a dispersion compensating fiber wound on a reel.

10. (currently amended) A dispersion compensating fiber module comprising:

a dispersion compensating fiber wound on a reel;
a module main body accommodating said dispersion compensating fiber;
~~a lower guide rail~~ lower guide rails provided on a lower surface of said module main body; and
~~an upper guide rail~~ upper guide rails provided on an upper surface of said module main body,
wherein said dispersion compensating fiber module can be inserted into a shelf having a box-like shape with an open front face through said open front face such that each of said upper guide rails is engaged and guided by an upper guide rail of a neighboring module and each of said lower guide rails is engaged and guided by a lower guide rail of a neighboring module.